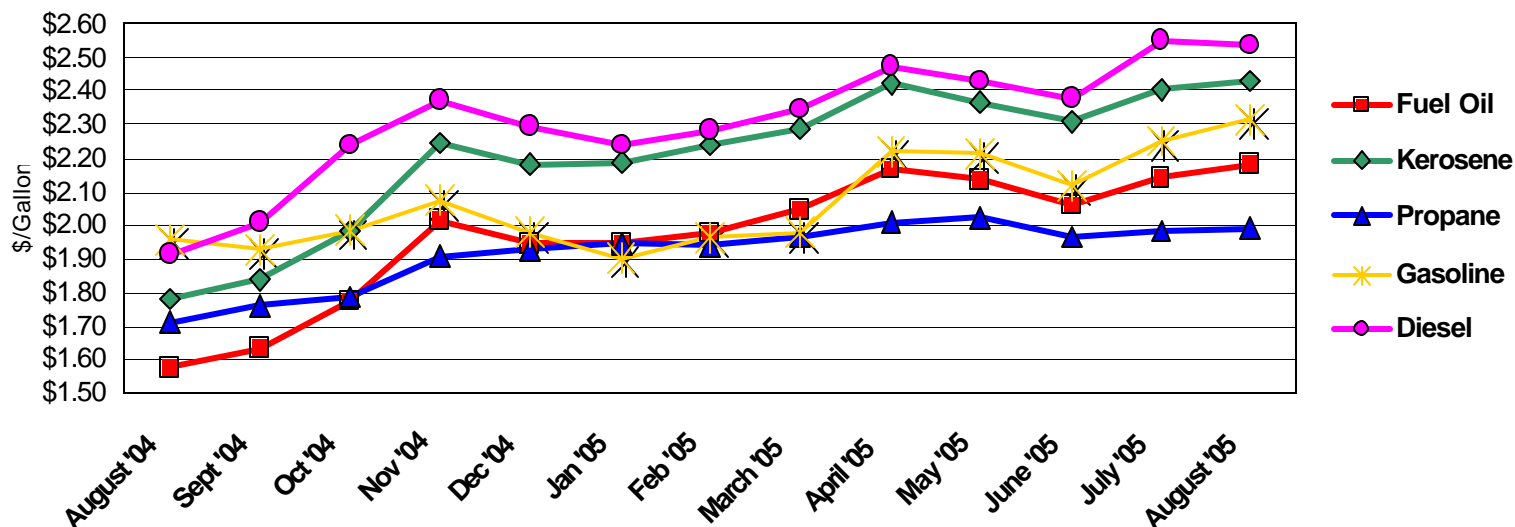


Vermont Fuel Price Report

August 2005

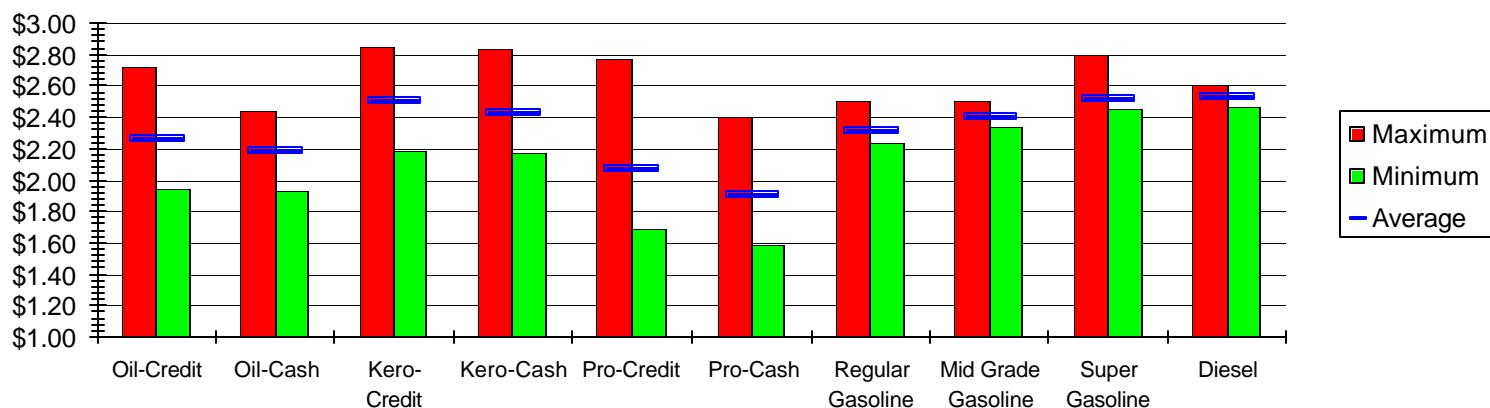
One-Year Price Trend



Vermont Average Retail Petroleum Prices (per gallon)

	August '05	July '05	%change	August '04	%change
No. 2 Fuel Oil	\$2.18	\$2.14	1.84%	\$1.58	38.31%
Kerosene	\$2.43	\$2.40	1.03%	\$1.78	36.51%
Propane	\$1.99	\$1.98	0.31%	\$1.71	16.39%
Reg. Unleaded Gasoline	\$2.31	\$2.25	2.95%	\$1.96	18.26%
Diesel	\$2.53	\$2.55	-0.54%	\$1.91	32.49%

Fuel Price Ranges in Vermont



Petroleum Update

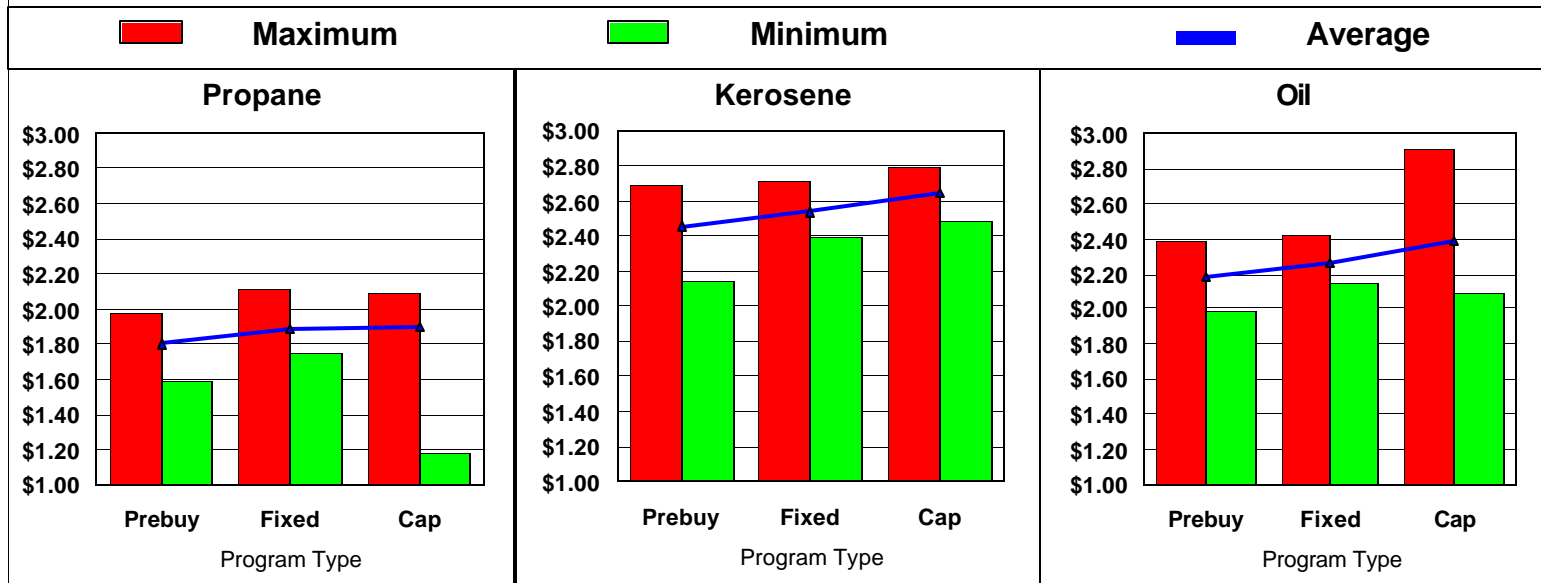
The Energy Information Administration (EIA) has reported that as of August 1, 2005 (which is when our fuel survey was conducted) the national average retail price of regular gasoline was \$2.29 per gallon, which is more than 40 cents higher than the same time last year, and the New England average retail price was \$2.37 per gallon. The national average retail diesel price was \$2.35 per gallon.

On August 8th the national average price of regular gasoline increased to \$2.37 per gallon and diesel increased to \$2.41 per gallon.

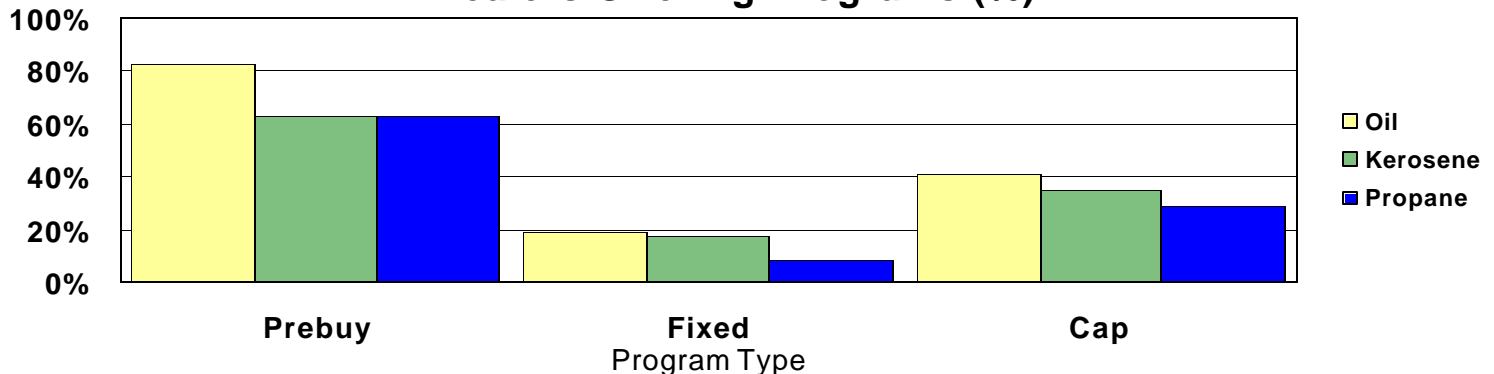
Additional information is available in the EIA report "This Week In Petroleum" at www.eia.doe.gov.

Price Protection Programs

The charts below show the availability and price per gallon for price protection programs as of **August 9th**, from a representative sample of Vermont fuel dealers (approximately 70). Of the dealers with programs 17 indicated their programs would end sometime in August and 24 indicated their programs were available "while supplies last."



Dealers Offering Programs (%)



Future Fuel Prices

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports in their August *Short-Term Energy Outlook*, that crude oil prices will continue to stay high due to the following factors: continued worldwide petroleum demand growth and lack of production increases to meet new demand; spare production capacity is at the lowest in three decades; tight refining and shipping capacity; and uncertainty in Iraq, Nigeria, and Venezuela. Another potential factor is the severity and location of hurricanes, which may impact petroleum facilities. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently increased their projection of the number of expected hurricanes in 2005 to between 9 and 11, with at least 5 being major hurricanes. NOAA also stated that this may be one of the most active hurricane seasons in the Atlantic.

Due to the expected high crude oil prices, gasoline prices are predicted to average above \$2.10 per gallon through 2006 and diesel fuel to average above \$2.20 per gallon.

EIA also predicts increases in heating oil prices during the upcoming heating season. In a recent presentation at the State Heating Oil and Propane Program Conference Guy Caruso-EIA Administrator, said they were projecting residential heating oil prices to average \$2.13 per gallon, which is a 29-cent increase from last heating season. This will result in an average increase of over \$200 per household for heating oil this season. Propane prices are expected to average \$1.78 per gallon, which is a 23-cent increase over the 2004-2005 heating season and will result in similar cost increases per household as heating oil.